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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its first substantive session (8–12 May 2000)

I. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

1. The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda held its first substantive session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi from 8 to 12 May 2000.

2. The session was opened by Germán García-Durán (Colombia), Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. A summary of his statement appears in annex V, section A, below.

3. Andrew Kiptoon, Minister for Roads and Public Works of Kenya, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the President of Kenya, Daniel T. arap Moi, and the people of Kenya.

4. The Acting Executive Director of the Centre, Klaus Töpfer, delivered a policy statement highlighting both the purpose of the preparatory process for the special session and the global socio-economic factors influencing that process. A summary of his statement appears in annex V, section B, below.

B. Attendance

5. The following States were represented:

Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia

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Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gambia
Germany
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritania
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zambia
Zimbabwe

6. The observer for Palestine to the United Nations also participated.

7. The following United Nations bodies and secretariat units were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service
United Nations Office for Project Services

8. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

African Development Bank (AfDB)
European Commission
Shelter Afrique

10. Representatives of the following national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the session:

Arab Towns Organization
International Union of Local Authorities
Local Government International Bureau
United Towns Organization
World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC)

11. The local authorities of the following cities were also represented:

Barcelona
Chengdu
Dubai
Entebbe
Greater Johannesburg
Hull
Eldoret
Allahabad
San Fernando
South Jordan

12. In addition, 61 non-governmental organizations were represented by observers, and parliamentarians from five countries were present.

C. Election of officers

13. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 8 May 2000, the following officers were elected to the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee:

Vice-Chairmen:

Amath Dansokho (Senegal) (to replace Abdourahmane Sow (Senegal), who had been elected at the organizational session)

Manfred Konukiewitz (Germany) (election to this position had been deferred from the organizational session of the preparatory committee)

Andrzej Olszowka (Poland) (to replace Vasil Marinov (Bulgaria), who had been elected at the organizational session)

Rapporteur:

Mehdi Mirafzal (Islamic Republic of Iran) (to replace Hossein Fadaei (Islamic Republic of Iran), who had been elected at the organizational session)

D. Adoption of the agenda

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the provisional agenda for the first substantive session as contained in document HS/C/PC.1/1, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Credentials.
3. Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process.
4. Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly.
5. Role of local authorities, other partners and relevant United Nations organizations and agencies in the review and appraisal process.
6. Preparation of a declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).
7. Provisional agenda and organizational arrangements for the second substantive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report on the session.
10. Closure of the session.

E. Organization of work

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 8 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the proposed organization of work as contained in document HS/C/PC.1/1/Add.1. The work of the plenary was divided into two segments: first, a high-level segment of ministers, heads of delegation and mayors, which would focus its discussion on agenda items 3, 4 and 6; secondly, dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners.

16. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee further decided to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole, presided over by Amath Dansokho (Senegal), one of the Vice-Chairmen, and gave it responsibility for in-depth discussion of items 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the agenda. The remaining agenda items were to be considered by the plenary.

17. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee also established an ad hoc open-ended drafting committee, under the chairmanship of Manfred Konukiewitz (Germany), one of the Vice-Chairmen, and gave it the responsibility for screening draft resolutions submitted by the delegations with a view to merging, reconciling or clarifying them, as necessary, prior to their consideration by the preparatory committee. The third Vice-Chairman, Andrzej Olszowka, was given the responsibility of assisting the Chairman in the conduct of the work of the plenary.

18. Also at the 1st plenary meeting, Mohamed Chraibi, Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Centre, reported on the work accomplished by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparing draft resolutions for consideration by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

F. Credentials

19. In accordance with rule 11, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure adopted at the organizational session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the Bureau reported to the preparatory committee at its 7th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the first substantive session of the preparatory committee and had found them to be in order. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee approved the report at the same meeting.

G. Adoption of the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

20. The present report was adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its 7th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000.

II. Discussions

A. High-level segment of the plenary

21. During its high-level segment, at its 1st to 3rd plenary meetings, held on 8 and 9 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee focused its discussions on agenda items 3, 4 and 6.

22. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 8 May 2000, statements were made by the representatives of Sri Lanka, South Africa, India, China and Senegal. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, Metropolis and the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination.

23. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 May 2000, statements were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Kenya, Zimbabwe (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Malawi, Germany, Jordan, Spain, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Togo and Croatia. Statements were also made by the representatives of Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and UNDP.

24. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 9 May 2000, statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay, the Holy See, Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, Brazil (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States), Nepal, Israel, Uganda, Colombia, Barbados, Burundi, Iraq, Cameroon, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Austria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Turkey and Cuba (on behalf of the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean). Statements were also made by the representatives of Palestine, the Hassan Fathay Institute and the Huairou Commission.

25. A summary by the Chairman of the debate in the high-level segment is contained in annex III, section A.

B. Dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners

26. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee held three dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners at its 3rd to 5th plenary meetings, on 9 and 10 May 2000.

27. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 9 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee held the first dialogue, on the theme "Towards a normative framework for good urban governance". Introductory remarks were made by the Acting Executive Director of the Centre, the Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, the President of WACLAC, the representative of Metropolis and the Mayor of Barcelona. They were followed by presentations by the following eight panellists: Mayor of San Fernando (Philippines); President of European Parliamentarians for Habitat; Mayor of Allahabad (India); Secretary-General of the Habitat International Coalition; President of the International Union of Local Authorities; Mayor of Bonn; representative of the Asian Women and Shelter Network; and representative of Transparency International. The panellists introduced the theme of the dialogue and responded to interventions from the representatives of India, Finland, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, Algeria and Cameroon and non-governmental organizations.

28. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 10 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee held the second dialogue, on the theme "Towards a world charter of local self-government". Introductory remarks were made by the Chairman of the Dialogue, Daniel Biau, Acting Deputy Executive Director of the Centre. This was followed by presentations on the dialogue theme by the following panellists: Chairman of the Expert Working Group on the World Charter; President of the International Union of Local Authorities; representative of Global Parliamentarians for Habitat; Director of Local Self-government, Ministry of Urban Development of India; and representative of the Women and Habitat Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. The panellists also responded to interventions from the representatives of Uruguay, Mexico, Senegal, China, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Colombia, Uganda, Nigeria, the United States, Malawi and Burundi. The panellists further responded to an intervention by the representative of Global Parliamentarians for Habitat.

29. At its 6th plenary meeting, on 10 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee held the third dialogue, on the theme "A rights-based approach to the Habitat Agenda — towards a normative framework for security of tenure". The keynote address was delivered by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of India. The following panellists then made presentations: representative of Kituo cha Sheria (Kenya); representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Secretary of the Women and Shelter Network of the Habitat International Coalition and representative of Women's Advancement Trust (United Republic of Tanzania); and a land tenure expert from the United Kingdom. The panellists responded to interventions from the representatives of India, Kenya, Egypt, Cameroon, Tunisia, Uganda, Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The panellists also responded to interventions by representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations.

30. A summary by the Chairman of the dialogues is contained in annex III, section B.

31. Following consideration of this item, the representative of China expressed the view that the concluding paragraph of the Chairman's summary of the dialogue on the proposed world charter of local self-government did not reflect what had actually happened at the meeting. The delegation of China and other delegations had voiced opposition to the inclusion of the charter in the discussion list for the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, and hence it was not correct to speak of a general consensus on the matter.

C. Report of the Committee of the Whole

32. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6 at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 8 and 9 May 2000, respectively, and considered the draft report of its work at its 3rd meeting, on 11 May 2000.

33. At its 1st meeting, on 8 May 2000, the Committee commenced and completed consideration of agenda items 3 and 4. During its consideration of agenda item 3, statements were made by the representatives of Nepal, Japan, Swaziland, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya and Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union). During its consideration of agenda item 4, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Swaziland and Senegal. A statement was also made by the representative of ECA.

34. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 May 2000, the Committee commenced and completed consideration of agenda items 5 and 6. During its consideration of agenda item 5, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Japan, China, the United States, India, Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Holy See and Uganda. Statements were also made by the representatives of AfDB, UNESCO, WMO and the International Council of Women. During its consideration of agenda item 6, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, China, India, the United States, Cameroon, the Republic of Korea, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Holy See. A statement was also made by the representative of ECA.

35. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 May 2000, the Committee considered a new additional item submitted to it by the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee on the topic: "Expectations on the outcome, structure and preparatory process of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall

review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda". During consideration of this item, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Colombia and the United States.

36. The draft report of the Committee of the Whole was presented to the plenary by the Chairman at the 7th meeting, on 12 May 2000, and adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

37. The Committee's report appears in annex IV below.

D. Report of the Drafting Committee

38. The Drafting Committee held two informal meetings on 9 May 2000 and six formal meetings between 10 and 12 May 2000. Of the 14 draft resolutions before the Committee, it reached full agreement on six, which it forwarded for adoption in the plenary meeting. Two resolutions were rejected on grounds of late submission, and five were not considered by the Drafting Committee, as most of the issues covered by them were incorporated in the omnibus resolution entitled "Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda".

39. The Drafting Committee was unable to reach consensus on one draft resolution, on promotion of family support policies in the review and implementation of the Habitat Agenda (HS/C/PC.1/L.8), and consequently forwarded it to the plenary with the recommendation that it be referred to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second substantive session, and that it be given priority attention at that session.

40. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee submitted his report to the plenary at the 7th meeting, and the Commission acting as the preparatory committee adopted the report of the Drafting Committee and its recommendations.

41. The resolutions as adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee are contained in annex I, section A. All resolutions were adopted by consensus. The draft resolution referred to in the second session is contained in annex I, section B.

42. At the 7th plenary meeting, following the adoption of the report of the Drafting Committee, the representative of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, expressed disappointment that no reference to a world charter of local self-government had been included in the resolutions before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. Although the European Union had accepted the report of the Drafting Committee in order not to hold up the work of the preparatory committee, it was very much in favour of the inclusion of a reference to the proposed world charter of local self-government and would have wanted to see it included in the agenda of the special session. The European Union saw the charter as key to promoting decentralization and local democracy and strengthening partnerships between the various spheres of government — national, local and intermediate.

43. At the same meeting, statements relating to the resolutions that had been adopted were made by the representatives of China and the Holy See. Those representatives requested, and the Commission acting as the preparatory committee agreed, that their statements should be included *in extenso* in the report on the session (see annex VI).

E. Provisional agenda and organizational arrangements for the second substantive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

44. At its 7th plenary meeting, on 12 May 2000, the Commission acting as the preparatory committee decided that its second substantive session would be held at Nairobi from 19 to 23 February 2001, immediately following the eighteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. At the same meeting, the preparatory committee decided to adopt the following provisional agenda for its second substantive session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. Preparation of a draft report on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

5. Preparation of a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.

6. Proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners at the special session.

7. Recommendation of the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighteenth session and of the year 2000 coordinating segment of the Economic and Social Council.

8. Provisional agenda for the special session of the General Assembly.

9. Organizational arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly, including the rules of procedure for the session.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

F. Offer by the Government of Turkey

45. At the 3rd plenary meeting, during the high-level segment, the representative of Turkey extended an invitation from his Government for the special session of the General Assembly to be hosted in Istanbul. The Chairman welcomed the offer with appreciation and referred it to the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, which subsequently thanked the Government of Turkey for the offer and requested the Chairman to transmit it to the General Assembly for consideration and appropriate action.

46. At the 7th plenary meeting, the representative of Turkey noted that, while the Commission acting as the preparatory committee was not in a position to decide on the matter itself, the time required before the General Assembly could take a decision later in the year would make it impossible to ensure proper preparations by his Government. That delay and a lack of strong support from the preparatory committee had led his Government to withdraw its offer. The Chairman noted with regret the withdrawal of the offer by the Government of Turkey.

III. Closure of the session

47. At the close of the session, the Acting Executive Director congratulated the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for having taken important first steps at the first substantive session. He believed that the steps taken had placed it on the right path in the preparatory process, leading to a successful special session of the General Assembly. The preparatory session had given Governments, mayors and local authorities, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations, women's groups and young people the opportunity to express their views on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and their dedication to fulfilling the promise of Habitat II. The dialogues between Governments and local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners had done much to rekindle the spirit of Istanbul and, along with the decisions taken by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, to move the process further forward. Pointing to the fact that India's population had passed the 1 billion mark during the meeting, he underscored the urgent need for the family of nations to face the challenges of the urban millennium. Finally, he thanked the Chairman and all the members of the Bureau for their excellent conduct of the session and expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for their support of the work of the Centre in its role as the secretariat for the preparatory process. Noting that the preparatory committee had given the Centre a considerable number of tasks for the inter-sessional period, he assured delegations that the secretariat would carry them out effectively and efficiently with the advice and support of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

48. The representatives of the following delegations made closing statements on behalf of their regional groups: Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group), Bangladesh (on behalf of the Asian Group), Malawi (on behalf of the African Group), Sweden (on behalf of the West European and Other Group) and Poland (on behalf of the Eastern European Group). The representative of the secretariat of the Youth for Habitat International Network also made a closing statement. In their closing statements, the representatives expressed their satisfaction with the open and constructive deliberations during the session, and with its outcome. They also conveyed their

appreciation to the Chairman and the Bureau for their excellent handling of the proceedings of the session, to the people and Government of Kenya for their hospitality and to the secretariat for the outstanding support they had received during the session.

49. Andrew Kiptoon, Minister of Roads and Public Works of Kenya, thanked the Chairman and the Bureau, all delegations, the Executive Director and the secretariat for their contributions to a successful session. He noted with pleasure that the session had been able to chart a path forward towards the special session of the General Assembly. He acknowledged the contributions of partner organizations and encouraged their continued participation in the preparatory process, which he saw as an excellent forum for stakeholder discussions. While the campaigns for secure tenure and for good urban governance were important, the participants in the preparatory process should keep their focus on the review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

50. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman thanked the other members of the Bureau, the chairmen of the regional groups, the Executive Director and the secretariat and all representatives to the session for assisting in the successful completion of the work of the first substantive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. He stated that the work accomplished at the session marked a good start to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly. He highlighted the reports made by representatives of States and partner organizations during the high-level segment as having been a useful beginning in the process of appraising the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. He also praised the spirit of accommodation that had been shown by all delegations.

51. The Chairman declared the first substantive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee closed at 8 p.m. on Friday, 12 May 2000.

Annex I

Resolutions adopted at the first session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and draft resolution referred to its second session

A. Resolutions adopted by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first session

	Title	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
1/1	International cooperation and financial support for the preparatory activities and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda	12 May 2000	9
1/2	The role of local authorities in the preparatory process and at the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda	12 May 2000	11
1/3	Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process	12 May 2000	11
1/4	Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda	12 May 2000	15
1/5	Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda — structure and preparatory process of the special session	12 May 2000	16
1/6	Participation of youth in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda	12 May 2000	18

1/1. International cooperation and financial support for the preparatory activities and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, which recognized that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Habitat Agenda,[1] and further recognizing that the international community should support Governments in their efforts, through international cooperation,

Also recalling paragraph 13 of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[2] which states, *inter alia*, that as the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will require adequate funding, financial resources must be mobilized at the national and international levels, including new and additional resources from all sources — multilateral and bilateral, public and private,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

Further recalling that in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, the Secretary-General was requested to seek extrabudgetary resources to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to send representatives to the sessions of the preparatory committee and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Noting with concern the lack of resources for the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the meetings leading up to and including the special session of the General Assembly, as well as the lack of sufficient funds for the full operations of the secretariat for the special session,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the status of the financial support received so far for the preparatory activities for the special session of the General Assembly,[3]

Recognizing the constraints countries face in implementing the Habitat Agenda, due to the deteriorating conditions of shelter and human settlements in rural and urban areas, particularly in developing countries, which are aggravated by the negative effects of wars and natural disasters on human settlements,

1. *Calls upon* the international community to lend support to developing countries in the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including their participation in regional meetings, the second meeting of the preparatory committee and the special session itself;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider favourably the allocation of additional funds, including, *inter alia,* from existing resources of the regular budget, for the preparatory activities for the special session of the General Assembly, with due regard to proper United Nations budgetary procedures;

3. *Further requests* the international community to support urban poverty reduction in developing countries as well as reconstruction programmes, following conflicts and natural disasters, in order to allow countries so affected to implement the Habitat Agenda effectively;

4. *Calls upon* Governments and other donors that are in a position to do so to provide additional voluntary contributions to the preparatory process for the special session;

5. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to continue to provide the permanent representatives to the Centre with regular comprehensive and transparent updates on the financial status of the preparatory process for the special session and its possible consequences for the preparatory activities;

6. *Also invites* the Executive Director of the Centre to report to it at its second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

7th meeting
12 May 2000

[3] HS/C/PC.1/CRP.2.

1/2. The role of local authorities in the preparatory process and at the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Acknowledging the important role of local authorities in implementing the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Welcoming the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, requested by the Commission on Human Settlements in its resolution 17/18 of 14 May 1999,

Taking note with satisfaction of the Venice Declaration, adopted by the Committee at the conclusion of its constituent meeting, held in Venice on 23 and 24 January 2000,

Recognizing the valuable contribution that the Committee can make to the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including its preparatory process and follow-up,

1. *Expresses, in particular, its appreciation* to the mayors of cities and towns and presidents of global and regional associations of local authorities serving on the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities for the valuable contribution made to the work of the first session of the preparatory committee, and encourages the Advisory Committee and its members to continue contributing to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Invites* all member States in a position to do so to support the functioning and the activities of the Advisory Committee;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the activities of the Advisory Committee at the second substantive session of the preparatory committee;

4. *Encourages* member States to include local authority representatives in their national delegations to the second session of the preparatory committee and the special session of the General Assembly.

7th meeting
12 May 2000

1/3. Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution to guide the finalization of the detailed agenda for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda:

"*The General Assembly,*

"*Recalling* paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda,[1] resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations

Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, in which it decided that its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda would be held in June 2001 and that the Commission on Human Settlements should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session,

"*Bearing in mind* the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda', submitted to it at its fifty-third session,[4] in which the Commission on Human Settlements was invited to consider and recommend: the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the preparatory committee; the scope to be covered by a coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council on human settlements issues to be held before the year 2001; and the issues to be addressed by the Commission at its eighteenth session which would be supportive of the work being done by the preparatory committee,

"*Taking into account* its resolutions 54/208 of 22 December 1999, on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and 54/209 of 22 December 1999, on the follow-up to the Conference,

"*Bearing in mind* resolution 17/1 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and resolution 17/14 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

"*Noting with appreciation* the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process[5] and the modalities for reporting as defined in the guidelines issued by the Centre,

"1. *Endorses* resolution 1/5, adopted on 12 May 2000 by the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee at its first substantive session, entitled 'Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda — structure and preparatory process of the special session';

"I. *Participation and accreditation*

"2. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, in his consultations requested in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 53/180, to take into account the recommendations of the preparatory committee that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[6] should apply to the special session of the General Assembly, and that the rules concerning the participation of local authorities and non-governmental

[4] A/53/267.
[5] HS/C/PC.1/2.
[6] A/CONF.165/2.

organizations in the special session should not create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly;

"3. *Decides* that the accreditation to the special session and its preparatory process should follow the rules of procedure for participation adopted by the Habitat II Conference;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely all available information on accreditation procedures as well as information on supportive measures for participation in the special session;

"5. *Decides* that the arrangements set out above concerning accreditation of local authorities and non-governmental organizations to the special session will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the Assembly;

"II. *Action at the local, national and regional levels*

"6. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen broad-based, participatory, gender-balanced national habitat committees or similar consultative mechanisms to review and report on local and national plans of action, and through consultative mechanisms coordinate and support further the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at local and national levels;

"7. *Urges* States to focus their assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels on key commitments related to policies and methods of evaluation, and recommends that States identify best practices, including good policies, legislation and exemplary plans of action in implementing the Habitat Agenda in a gender-sensitive way, promote research in low-cost building technology for affordable housing and support the transfer of all such knowledge to ensure sustainability;

"8. *Urges* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to organize one consultation in each region, requests that each regional consultation produce a report for the consideration of the preparatory committee at its second session, and invites Governments and other donors in a position to do so to support such activities, to the extent that the costs are not covered in the regular budget of the Centre;

"III. *Partnership and the role of civil society*

"9. *Encourages* Member States to integrate contributions made by different partner groups towards further implementation of the Habitat Agenda in their national reports and to include partner groups in broad-based, gender-balanced national delegations;

"10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the activities of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities at the second substantive session of the preparatory committee;

"IV. *Monitoring and assessment*

"11. *Encourages* Member States and Habitat partners to provide support for the periodic preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report in order to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world;

"12. *Encourages* States and Habitat partners to provide support for the preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report which will be prepared for the special session;

"13. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Settlements pursue a possible agreement among member States on a pool of common and easy-to-measure indicators applicable for national reporting and evaluation, taking account of the international work in this area, adapting existing statistics wherever possible;

"14. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and agencies and other development partners to coordinate data collection and analysis, and develop a monitoring system at the local level on sustainable human settlements, with appropriate strengthening at all levels;

"15. *Encourages* all Governments and partners to submit to the secretariat examples of enabling urban policies and legislation related to key items selected for country reporting, to enable the secretariat to combine best practices, enabling policies legislation and action plans for identifying 'illustrative cities' for the two campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance;

"V. *International cooperation*

"16. *Requests* the secretariat of the preparatory committee, in close consultation with member States, to prepare a draft declaration on human settlements in the new millennium to be submitted to the committee at its second substantive session;

"17. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to report on the actions and achievements of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Good Urban Governance at the special session;

"18. *Calls upon* the international community to support developing countries in the preparatory process for the special session, including their participation in regional meetings, the second meeting of the preparatory committee and the special session itself;

"19. *Requests* the international community to support urban poverty reduction in developing countries as well as reconstruction programmes following conflicts and natural disasters, in order to allow countries so affected to implement the Habitat Agenda effectively."

7th meeting
12 May 2000

1/4. Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, which adopted the scope to be covered by the special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1] as set out in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Proposals on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda",[4]

Bearing in mind resolution 17/1 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and resolution 17/14 of 12 May 1999 of the Commission on the preparations for the special session,

Noting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process[5] and his report on local, national and regional preparations for the special session,[7]

Welcoming the progress made so far at the local, national and regional levels in the preparatory process for the special session, and recognizing that efforts such as Urban 21, a joint initiative between the Governments of Brazil, Germany, Singapore and South Africa, will enhance this process,

Noting the importance of the preparatory process for the successful outcome of the special session,

1. *Calls upon* national Governments, local authorities and other partners to renew their commitments towards implementing the Habitat Agenda and to intensify the scope and level of preparatory activities at the local, national and regional levels;

2. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen broad-based, participatory, gender-balanced national habitat committees or similar consultative mechanisms to review and report on local and national plans of action, and through consultative mechanisms to coordinate and support further the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local and national levels;

3. *Urges* States to focus their assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, at the local, national and regional levels, on key commitments related to policies and methods of evaluation, and recommends that States identify best practices, including good policies, legislation and exemplary plans of action in implementing the Habitat Agenda in a gender-sensitive way, promote research in low-cost building technology for affordable housing and support the transfer of all such knowledge to ensure sustainability;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of a sound monitoring and evaluation system in the task of analysing and disseminating best practices in the process of implementing the Habitat Agenda;

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[7] HS/C/PC.1/3.

5. *Invites* Governments, in collaboration with local authorities and all other Habitat Agenda partners, to produce a country report as a result of the consultative process in the national habitat committee or similar consultative mechanisms;

6. *Urges* the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and other regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to organize one consultation in each region, requests that each regional consultation produce a report for the consideration of the preparatory committee at its second session, and invites Governments and other donors in a position to do so to support such activities, to the extent that the costs are not covered in the regular budget of the Centre;

7. *Also invites* Governments and their partners to review the usefulness of monitoring systems at the regional level and of regional information exchange for the purpose of coordinating regional-level action;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to provide, within available budgetary resources, technical assistance to Governments and their partners as and if required, and to report to the Commission on Human Settlements at its next session;

9. *Also calls upon* Governments that are in a position to do so to provide additional voluntary contributions to allow developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to participate fully in the review process.

7th meeting
20 May 2000

1/5. Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda — structure and preparatory process of the special session

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Recalling the commitment made by Governments at Istanbul to the successful implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1] including the commitment to the goals of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing and the enablement of all relevant actors at all levels of government, as well as the commitment to enhance international cooperation and partnership and to assess progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Also recalling General Assembly resolutions 53/180 of 15 December 1998 on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, 54/208 of 22 December 1999 on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 54/209 of 22 December 1999 on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Aware that urbanization and the sustainable development of cities and other human settlements will be fundamental to economic growth, social progress and environmental protection and the improvement of the living conditions of people in the twenty-first century, and that this will require the just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements, the decentralization of authority

and resources and the enablement of local leadership and democratic rule, as foreseen in the Habitat Agenda and reflected in the report of the Secretary-General to the Millennium Assembly,[8]

Noting with appreciation the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process,[5]

Convinced that the special session should be an important milestone to accelerate the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration[2] and the Habitat Agenda by Governments at all levels, civil society partners and the United Nations system,

I. *Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda*

1. *Agrees* that the special session should result in:

(a) Reconfirmation of the goals and commitments of the Habitat Agenda, and review of the status of implementation, including the identification of progress, gaps, obstacles and challenges;

(b) The setting of global priorities for future action;

2. *Emphasizes* the role of the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing body of the Economic and Social Council, as a central monitoring and coordinating body within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the existing role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

4. *Emphasizes also,* while recognizing that implementation of the Habitat Agenda is the sovereign right and responsibility of each State, that international cooperation as stipulated in the Habitat Agenda remains an important component in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

II. *Structure of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda*

5. *Agrees* that the special session should focus on sharing views on local, national and regional experiences in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, with a view to improving national and local policies on sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all;

6. *Agrees* that the special session should concentrate, among other matters, on presentations, including thematic presentations, on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda by a range of Habitat partners, including representatives of local authorities, civil society, the private sector as well as the United Nations, the Bretton Woods organizations and other multilateral organizations, focusing on experiences and lessons learned since Istanbul;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a proposal for structuring the discussions among the various Habitat Agenda partners using innovative and

[8] *We the Peoples — The Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-first Century* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.16).

successful approaches from other forums to be discussed and agreed upon during the second session of the preparatory committee;

8. *Confirms* the need, as stated in General Assembly resolution 53/180, to ensure substantive contributions to and active involvement in the special session by local authorities, other Habitat Agenda partners and relevant actors of civil society, in particular the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

9. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Settlements include a consultation on the effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations and networks on the agenda of its eighteenth session, in relation with the item on local implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the role of local authorities;

10. *Requests* the Commission to report on this issue to the preparatory committee at its second session;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Habitat Agenda partners for the valuable contribution made to the work of the first session of the preparatory committee, and encourages them to continue contributing to the preparatory process for the special session;

12. *Acknowledges* the activity carried out by the interparliamentary organization Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and its permanent and important role in implementing the provisions of the Habitat Agenda through the formulation and adoption of adequate legislation and policies in order to shape national strategies and carry out activities in the field of human settlements, and encourages the organization to contribute actively to the preparatory process for the special session.

7th meeting
12 May 2000

1/6. Participation of youth in the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

Concerned that many young people are excluded from many parts of society in the decision-making processes,

Recalling the memorandum of understanding between the Youth for Habitat International Network and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), signed in May 1998,[9] and resolution 17/19 on partnership with youth adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth session, in May 1999,

Acknowledging that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Habitat Agenda[1] and strengthening partnerships with youth, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, indigenous people and communities, local authorities, the private sector and non-

[9] *National Reports on Contributions of Youth to the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda* (Nairobi, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements/Youth for Habitat International Network), part 3, sect. 3.1.

governmental organizations in each country, as mentioned in paragraph 213 of the Habitat Agenda,

Aware of the fact that a special session is to be held in 2001 to conduct an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as called for by the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda,

Noting that special attention needs to be paid to the participatory processes dealing with the shaping of cities and other human settlements in order to improve the living conditions of children and youth,

Noting with appreciation the work done to date by the Youth for Habitat International Network,

Stressing the importance of the family in the context of paragraph 31 of the Habitat Agenda, and recognizing the different needs of youth based on gender, race, religion, age, education, disabilities, family ties and economic situation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Stressing the importance of gender balance in all programmes and actions concerning young people,

Fully believing that young people are not only future leaders but present-day partners of, *inter alia*, Governments, the public sector, the private sector and civil society,

1. *Encourages* all Governments which have not yet done so to facilitate the presence of youth representatives in the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

2. *Also encourages* all Habitat partners to develop gender-sensitive capacity-building programmes which will enable youth to participate in the implementation and evaluation of the Habitat Agenda;

3. *Proposes* that the special session should include a thematic focus on youth.

7th meeting
12 May 2000

B. Draft resolution referred to the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

Argentina, Holy See, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya: draft resolution

Promotion of family support policies in the review and implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The Commission acting as the preparatory committee,

[*Recalling* that the Charter of the United Nations, in article 55, promotes "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development ... with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations",

Recognizing that, in the words of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State",

Bearing in mind the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents or legal guardians, as noted by the programmes of action of various United Nations conferences,

Noting especially the Habitat Agenda's reaffirmation that "human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements", [10] especially with an eye to the promotion of peace, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, while also recognizing the destructive impacts of family breakdown,

Considering with full respect the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds,

1. *Urges* the further development of conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating family stability support perspectives in human settlements planning, development and evaluation, including the development of indicators;

2. *Calls for* the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for use in policy and programme planning and implementation on the factors contributing to stable family life, as well as the factors contributing to the breakdown of the family as regards human settlements development;

3. *Invites* Governments to integrate a family stability support perspective in human settlements legislation, policies, programmes and projects through the application of family stability support arrangements, particularly as regards its benefits and the development and support of children;

4. *Also invites* Governments and civil society actors to formulate and strengthen policies and practices that promote family stability and parental responsibility for children's well-being in human settlements planning and decision-making;

5. *Requests* the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to develop indicators and methodologies which address issues related to paragraph 31 of the Habitat Agenda, and encourages States to include issues included in paragraph 31 in their reviews of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[11]

5 *bis*. *Requests* the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with full respect for various religious and

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[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* ... , chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 31.

[11] Paragraph 31 states: "The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. In different cultural, political and social systems, various forms of the family exist. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners. The rights, capabilities and responsibilities of family members must be respected. Human settlements planning should take into account the constructive role of the family in the design, development and management of such settlements. Society should facilitate, as appropriate, all necessary conditions for its integration, reunification, preservation, improvement, and protection within adequate shelter and with access to basic services and a sustainable livelihood."]

ethical values and cultural backgrounds, to develop indicators and methodologies which address issues related to the family in the Habitat Agenda, and encourages States to include issues included in paragraph 31 of the Habitat Agenda in their reviews of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

5 *ter*. ***Requests*** the Commission on Human Settlements and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), with full respect for various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds, to develop methodologies and indicators which take into account the constructive role of the family in sustainable human settlements planning and to include in their reports on the review and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda relevant actions taken and results obtained, as specified in paragraph 31 of the Habitat Agenda.]

Annex II

List of documents before the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its first substantive session

Agenda item	*Symbol*	*Title*
		Notification by the Executive Director
1	HS/C/PC.1/1	Provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda
1	HS/C/PC.1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda, including organization of work
3	HS/C/PC.1/2	Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process: report of the Executive Director
4	HS/C/PC.1/3 and Corr.1	Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/PC.1/4	Role of local authorities, other partners and relevant United Nations organizations and agencies in the review and appraisal process: report of the Executive Director
6	HS/C/PC.1/5	Preparation of a declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.1	Outline of the report to be submitted to the coordinating segment of the Economic and Social Council (July 2000) on human settlements issues and the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda: note by the secretariat
5	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.2	Budgetary matters: proposed budget for the preparatory activities for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.3	Main decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of relevance to the work of the preparatory committee: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.4	Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the scope and organizational aspects of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.5	Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its seventeenth session: note by the secretariat
5	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.6	Good urban governance: a normative framework

Agenda item	*Symbol*	*Title*
5	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.7	Progress report on the preparation of the proposed world charter of local self-government: report of the Executive Director
5	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.8	Secure tenure: a normative framework
6	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.9	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) strategy for the year 2000: note by the secretariat
3	HS/C/PC.1/CRP.10	Draft resolutions prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
1	HS/C/PC.1/INF/1	State of preparedness of documents for the session as at 13 March 2000
1	HS/C/PC.1/INF/2	List of documents before the first session of the preparatory committee
3	HS/C/PC.1/INF/3	Building on "We the Peoples ...": the commitment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the Millennium Agenda of the Secretary-General
3	HS/C/PC.1/INF/4	Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process: biodiversity and urban environment
3	HS/C/PC.1/INF/5	Urbanization facts and figures from "World Urbanization Prospects: the 1999 revision"
3	HS/C/PC.OS/4	Report of the organizational session of the preparatory committee

Annex III

Summaries by the Chairman of the high-level segment of the first substantive session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and of the dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners

A. High-level segment of the plenary

Introduction

1. The high-level segment of the first substantive session of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda comprised three plenary meetings, held on 8 and 9 May 2000. Its discussions focused on the following three main issues: first, the scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process (agenda item 3); secondly, local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly (agenda item 4); and thirdly, preparation of a declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (agenda item 6).

1. Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process

2. Many representatives promised their continued support to the review process and stressed that the special session should focus on the review of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/180. It was generally acknowledged that it was important to measure change and progress by means of indicators, while setting examples and sharing experiences through best practices.

3. One representative emphasized that the five-year review should be an honest and objective appraisal of all areas of the Habitat Agenda, and, in that regard, expressed regret that the documentation presented thus far did not provide an adequate base to accomplish that goal. The same representative expressed the view that the Centre's focus on the two global campaigns was too narrow for a thorough review of the Habitat Agenda to be conducted as mandated by the General Assembly.

4. Another representative suggested that the issues to be addressed at the special session should include key messages of the Habitat Agenda; development priorities; and easy-to-measure indicators for national reporting and international assessment. The outcomes of the session should be: confirmation of commitments made in Istanbul; review of the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including identification of progress, gaps and obstacles; identification of key challenges; and setting of priorities for further implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Another representative noted that a results-oriented document reflecting the national reports on implementation of the Habitat Agenda would be more useful than a broad and general document.

5. It was also stressed by some representatives that the Habitat Agenda should not be opened up for renegotiation, as that would jeopardize opportunities for moving forward.

6. Many representatives saw continued international cooperation as an important outcome of the review process, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was requested to include an additional section in the outline of the report on the scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process (HS/C/PC.1/2) to cover international cooperation in shelter development.

7. One representative expressed concern about the role of the preparatory committee, and noted that resolution 17/1 of the Commission on Human Settlements had initiated the development of a clear agenda for the special session.

2. Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly

8. Most representatives highlighted progress within their countries in the housing sector. Many of them described specific initiatives, including the improvement of legislative, institutional and gender frameworks in the shelter sector. They also pointed out the following areas as deserving particular attention: partnerships between the various stakeholders in the shelter sector, decentralization, deregulation, adaptation of institutional frameworks, gender balance, international cooperation, privatization, and low implementation capacity at the local level.

9. Many representatives pointed out the importance of urban indicators for both the preparation of national reports and the future assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Several representatives reported on the establishment or planned establishment of regional, national, state and city urban observatories as important initiatives for future assessment in the shelter sector. Some representatives pointed out that systematic follow-up work on urban indicators was essential, and that further elaboration of the schedule of indicators was required. Many representatives also pointed to the best practices mechanism as an important tool in sharing experiences in the shelter sector. One representative singled out the Cities Initiative/Cities Alliance programme as an important vehicle towards solving the problems of cities.

10. Several representatives stated that national committees were working in their countries to present consensus reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda to the special session. Some representatives pointed out that local authorities had been led to understand that they would have a prominent role to play during the special session. The special session should therefore make sufficient provision for the exchange of experiences between cities.

11. Strong support was expressed by many representatives for the work undertaken so far on the world charter of local self-government. One representative was of the view that the issue of the charter was outside the mandate of any conference on human settlements or the preparatory process for the special session. Many representatives pointed out that legal, administrative and political processes were already in place at the local level and should be taken into account within preparatory discussions on the charter. The need for an adequate time-frame for the formulation and implementation of the charter was acknowledged. In addition, the different realities in the various countries would need to be taken into account.

Other representatives pointed out that, although there was a chance that consensus might not be reached on the charter during the special session, what was important was that the process had started and that the direction taken was the right one.

12. Many representatives expressed support for Habitat's focus on the two global campaigns on good urban governance and secure tenure. Some representatives, while endorsing the focus on the global campaigns, stressed that other areas of work within the mandate of the Centre should not be forgotten. Many representatives highlighted the lack of financial, managerial and technical resources for implementing the new shelter policies. Several representatives called for increased international cooperation to ensure the attainment of the goals set out in the new policies in the shelter sector. Many representatives pointed out the limited capacity of local authorities to carry out their new role, and called for capacity-building and financial initiatives.

3. *Preparation of a declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*

13. Several representatives expressed support for the thrust of the proposed declaration on the role and mandate of the Centre in the new millennium. The emphasis on poverty alleviation and shelter for all communities, and the importance given to the role of women, were especially welcomed. One representative voiced concern that rural settlements and rural poverty might be neglected due to an over-emphasis on cities through the change in the name of the Habitat Centre to "United Nations Agency for Cities and Human Settlements", given that large rural populations were still the rule in many developing countries.

B. Dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners

Introduction

14. With reference to the decision of the Commission on Human Settlements "to provide, at future sessions of the Commission, opportunities for partners to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Governments" (resolution 16/12) and with a view to increasing the participation and contribution of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners in the work of the preparatory committee as requested by the General Assembly, arrangements were made for dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to be held in the plenary on the second and third day of the session.

15. Three dialogues with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners were held in the course of three plenary sessions on 9 and 10 May 2000.

16. The themes of the dialogues were introduced by panellists from all regions of the world, representing the leading global and regional associations of local authorities, individual cities, parliamentarians, researchers, non-governmental organizations and women's groups.

17. The dialogues focused on the normative outputs proposed by the secretariat for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. These were: a declaration on the norms

of good urban governance, a world charter of local self-government and a declaration on secure tenure.

1. Declaration on the norms of good urban governance

18. This dialogue facilitated discussions among Governments and partners on the norms of good urban governance based on the principles of sustainability, decentralization, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security.

19. Introductory remarks were made by the Acting Executive Director, followed by statements from representatives of international associations and bodies of local authorities, mayors, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and women's groups.

20. The statements emphasized the important linkages between poverty reduction and good governance and supported the adoption of the norms of good urban governance. It was agreed that local authorities and national Governments would have to strive hard to adapt those norms to the specific local context. Local authorities were urged to adopt the spirit of the norms of good governance, while the means and ways to achieve the aim could vary. The city of the new urban millennium should involve and include all citizens and adopt the norms of good governance.

21. The presentations stressed the need for partnership between national Governments and local authorities, as well as the need to recognize and institutionalize partnerships between civil society and local authorities.

22. The participants welcomed the opportunity for a dialogue between local and national Governments. In the discussions, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Habitat Agenda and the norms of good urban governance. A number of participants also highlighted the importance of the world charter of local self-government as a decentralization tool.

23. Among the other issues raised during the discussions were lack of local government resources and municipal corruption, with a number of speakers expressing the view that good governance at the local level would help to reduce corruption. Other participants felt it was important that new obligations of local authorities be accompanied by financial resources and that priorities should also be matched to capacities.

24. The mayors described their experiences in implementing good governance. The experiences suggested that adoption of the norms of good governance by local authorities opened many windows of opportunity and access to resources. For national Governments, those norms were important to strengthen the process of decentralization.

25. The dialogue concluded with an endorsement of the seven basic principles for good urban government and with a recommendation to develop them further in line with the views expressed by the participants at the session.

2. World charter of local self-government

26. A representative of the Executive Director described the wide scope of the informal regional consultations process that had led to the preparation of the draft world charter of local self-government.

27. In their introductory statements, the representatives of local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners expressed their strong support for the proposed world charter, pointing out that its principal aim was to strengthen the collaboration and partnership between national and local Governments in order to ensure that the needs of citizens were met and basic services provided effectively at the local level. All the panellists underlined the importance of the full participation of local populations — both women and men — in sustainable development, the promotion of which was one of the goals of the proposed charter. They also underscored that the text of the charter before the preparatory committee was still a draft and not a final document and was therefore open to further incorporation of the views of Governments.

28. It was recognized during the discussion that followed that an institutional and legal framework for decentralization at the national level which gave local authorities the necessary capacity was essential, as recognized at Habitat II, for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. However, a number of speakers also noted that up to now decentralization policies had in many instances not been accompanied by the necessary resources to allow local authorities to carry out their new responsibilities.

29. Most representatives agreed with the importance of the initiative, but felt there was a need to improve the charter text in respect to content, terminology and definitions, especially with regard to the term "self-government". Some Governments expressed their strong reservations with regard to the proposed world charter as it did not reflect and speak to their constitutional reality and political structure. In response, a number of participants expressed the hope that Governments, mostly of countries with a federal structure, would be able to agree in principle to such a charter and continue to contribute to its elaboration and the negotiating process.

30. Several speakers welcomed the charter as a means to strengthen local democracy, while a number of others also emphasized that any eventual world charter should be flexible enough to accommodate all types of governments and constitutional settings. Some speakers also underscored the need to include the intermediate provincial and state level in the provisions of the charter, and the future role of that intermediate level of government in providing guidance, supervision and support to local government, while others expressed their reservations regarding the quality of the local civil service and its ability to take on additional responsibilities, noting that for that reason capacity-building, and measures to inhibit corruption, would also have to be considered. Finally, several speakers requested further clarification regarding the process of implementation of the world charter after its ratification as an international agreement.

31. In conclusion, there was a general consensus regarding the need to continue the discussion on the proposed world charter at the second session of the preparatory committee in order to give more time and opportunity to Governments to contribute

to the debate and to express their views on the charter during the inter-sessional period.

3. Declaration on secure tenure

32. The third dialogue provided delegates with an opportunity to review the normative aspects of secure tenure, a foundation for the realization of the Habitat Agenda's goal of adequate shelter for all. Speakers emphasized a rights-based approach to the Habitat Agenda, and stressed issues such as women and land inheritance, slum upgrading and alternatives to forced evictions. In so doing, the dialogue helped clarify a consultative process towards the development of a normative framework for security of tenure.

33. The draft declaration "Towards a normative framework for security of tenure" was recognized as a sound and useful preliminary document. The secretariat was urged to utilize the preparatory process for the special session to enhance the document further, for example by translating substantive elements into legal principles. It was also recommended that a broad-based, multi-stakeholder consultative process be undertaken by the secretariat to strengthen the declaration. Emphasis should be placed on civil society, particularly associations of community-based organizations and organizations directly representing the urban poor.

34. National legislation and international legal instruments were important means to advance security of tenure. However, legal mechanisms alone would not work. There was a need to augment national legislation and international instruments with realistic, on-the-ground policy options and practical strategies. The application of such instruments, and the institutional and administrative capacity to implement them, were as important as their legal adoption.

35. Delegations and partners concurred that the issue of security of tenure concerned the very essence of human dignity. Without secure tenure, people were forced to live in conditions that were degrading and dehumanizing. While the technical, administrative and legal elements necessary to secure tenure were crucial, one must not lose sight of the human condition. For that and other reasons, a rights-based approach to the provision of adequate shelter was warmly welcomed.

36. Women's and men's equal access to secure forms of tenure entailed the promotion of national legislative reform on cultural practices that discriminated against women's right to title and inheritance. Efforts to improve women's rights in that area necessitated broad-based coalitions among parliamentarians, mayors and research institutions, as well as women's groups.

37. Local authorities had an important role to play in the process of securing tenure. That was especially so in the context of decentralization, whereby local governments were increasingly responsible for land registration, slum upgrading and greenfield development. It was important, however, that local authorities be given the resources and authority to undertake those new functions, as well as systematic capacity-building.

38. Delegations and partners also discussed normative and strategic options for secure tenure. While the granting of statutory freehold was often posited as desirable, it might have negative consequences for the poor. Limited administrative capacity of local governments meant that registering formal title might be extremely difficult and lengthy. In such cases only select groups of the poor would be granted

title, which could lead to a situation whereby downgrading would occur. It was perhaps preferable to identify intermediate, de facto forms of tenure (e.g., community land trusts, group title and certificates of use). By ensuring the security of those forms of tenure, local authorities and community-based organizations could together increase the access of people living in poverty to urban citizenship, to basic services and to financial credits.

Annex IV

Report of the Committee of the Whole

1. The sessional Committee of the Whole, presided over by Amath Dansokho (Senegal), one of the Vice-Chairmen, held two meetings, on 8 and 9 May 2000, and considered agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6, and an additional item entitled "Expectations on the outcome, structure and preparatory process of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda", submitted to it by the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The Committee held a third meeting, on 11 May 2000, at which it considered, amended and adopted its report on these agenda items.

Agenda item 3. Scope to be covered by the review and appraisal process

2. For this agenda item, the secretariat presented documents HS/C/PC.1/2, HS/C/PC.1/CRP.1, HS/C/PC.1/CRP.2, HS/C/PC.1/CRP.3, HS/C/PC.1/CRP.4, HS/C/PC.1/CRP.5 and HS/C/PC.1/CRP.6.

3. During the Committee's consideration of the item, seven representatives (Nepal, Japan, Swaziland, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union)) took the floor. Most of those delegations commended the secretariat's presentation and expressed their general agreement with its contents.

4. A number of representatives asked to have further information concerning funding for the review and appraisal process, with particular emphasis on support to developing and, in particular, least developed countries, to enable them to participate fully in the process, and wished to know how the evident shortfall in funding would be covered.

5. One representative supported the appeal of the Executive Director for voluntary contributions to the process and proposed that at the current session the preparatory committee should prepare a resolution setting out possible options for supporting the full participation of poor countries in the review and appraisal process, including a request for funds from the regular budget of the United Nations.

6. A representative of the secretariat stated that while some States provided funding for the participation of the least developed countries and countries emerging from internal conflicts, that funding would not be sufficient. The shortfall could possibly be met from further voluntary contributions by countries; if, however, sufficient voluntary contributions were not forthcoming, the secretariat would have little option but to scale down the programme to match the available funds.

7. One representative made detailed comments on documents HS/C/PC.1/2 and HS/C/PC.1/CRP.1, pointing out specific omissions and gaps in the proposed scope of appraisal and suggesting possible amendments. Another representative proposed that paragraphs 36, 37 and 66 (c) of document HS/C/PC.1/2 and other paragraphs relating to local authorities in that document should be revised so as to focus exclusively on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Another representative pointed out that some of the contents of the document did not reflect accurately the commitments set out in the Habitat Agenda. A number of representatives suggested that the secretariat should undertake a detailed revision of documents HS/C/PC.1/2

and HS/C/PC.1/CRP.1, taking into account all the comments made during the discussion.

8. Several representatives suggested that countries should focus their assessment and monitoring, at the local and national levels, on key commitments, related policies and methods of evaluation. States should identify best practices, including good policies, legislation and exemplary plans of action in implementing the Habitat Agenda and support the transfer of knowledge to ensure sustainability and impact.

9. One representative suggested that the issue of international cooperation was not sufficiently reflected in the scope of the review and appraisal process, and suggested that the secretariat prepare a paper on international cooperation in response to and in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Settlements and the General Assembly.

10. The secretariat took note of the comments made and undertook to make the appropriate amendments.

Agenda item 4. Local, national and regional preparations for the special session of the General Assembly

11. The secretariat presented document HS/C/PC.1/3.

12. During the consideration of the item, representatives of four delegations (Kenya, Swaziland, Senegal and the Economic Commission for Africa) made statements.

13. Some representatives stressed that national and local governments bore the main responsibility for implementing the Habitat Agenda and reporting on its progress, and that they should focus their assessment and monitoring, at the local and national levels, on key commitments and related policies.

14. Several representatives raised the issue of regional meetings and requested further guidance from the secretariat regarding the schedule and expected outcome of those meetings. Regional meetings were viewed by them as useful in assisting countries to formulate their national priorities and regional strategies on common issues regarding shelter and sustainable human settlements development.

15. Several representatives again pointed out that additional funding was needed to permit full participation in the regional meetings, as well as at the special session, particularly on the part of least developed countries. In that context, one representative recalled the commitments made at Istanbul regarding assistance to developing countries for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national level. The facilitation of participation of least developed countries in the follow-up to Istanbul and the preparatory process of the special session should be part of such assistance.

16. Some representatives provided information on their preparatory activities, such as the establishment of national coordinating committees, and gave details of their work at the national level.

17. A representative of the Economic Commission for Africa spoke of the Commission's work in regard to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and said that it was planning to host a regional preparatory meeting in November of the

current year in collaboration with United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

18. In response to the discussion, a representative of the secretariat gave details of the schedule and venues of regional meetings planned for the following months. She also described how United Nations organizations would assist countries to implement the Habitat Agenda. Countries should include the priorities of the Habitat Agenda in their national development plans, as that could make it possible for them to obtain assistance from UNDP and other United Nations agencies for the special session and its preparatory process. Delegations were invited to submit their final country reports as soon as possible, but in any event by 1 September 2000, so as to allow the secretariat to process them in time for the regional meetings.

Agenda item 5. Role of local authorities, other partners and relevant United Nations organizations and agencies in the review and appraisal process

19. During the consideration of this item, 17 representatives (Kenya, China, Japan, the United States, India, Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Egypt, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Uganda, the Holy See, Portugal (on behalf of the European Union), AfDB, UNESCO, WMO and the International Council of Women) made contributions.

20. While commending the presentation by the secretariat, a number of representatives raised issues concerning the document presented (HS/C/PC.1/4), particularly its annex I, regarding the proposed allocation of tasks in the Habitat Agenda task manager system. Some representatives perceived the proposed system as sidelining and marginalizing the Centre, which they suggested should have a more central leadership role in the Habitat Agenda implementation process. One representative suggested the addition of the Centre as a task manager for "Urban pollution" and "Disaster prevention and reconstruction" in the annex. The representative of WMO said that WMO could act as a task manager for some of the issues, particularly tasks related to environment, water management, pollution and so on.

21. While accepting as useful the proposed convening of a regular forum of international donors and partners (HS/C/PC.1/4, para. 13), one representative questioned whether existing coordination venues could not be expanded to undertake that work. He also asked whether the forum was to be an ongoing coordination forum or was to be used only for the current review process.

22. One representative stressed the need to ensure that the Habitat Agenda was the sole basis for the review and appraisal process and suggested that the introduction of new issues should be avoided.

23. While welcoming the involvement of local authorities, one representative was of the view that the document omitted mention of the basic unit of local authority — parents and families — and that it did not address the issue of who would be entitled to vote. Another representative added that the role of the family should be viewed with full respect for the religion, values, customs, habits and culture of each country or society. One representative noted the omission of assistance to basic education from the list of 20 issues that had been outlined in the document as key commitments and suggested that basic education should be on that list.

24. Another representative further suggested the inclusion of "opposition to illegal and forced evictions, as part of the global campaign on secure tenure" as an item in the list of key commitments.

25. One representative suggested that regional financial institutions, particularly regional development banks, should be included as task managers for particular issues. He observed that document HS/C/PC.1/4 did not specify clearly the relative roles of local authorities, other partners and relevant United Nations organizations and agencies in the review and appraisal process in the different regions, arguing that that was necessary for more effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Agenda item 6. Preparation of a declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

26. The draft declaration (HS/C/PC.1/5, annex) was presented by the representative of the secretariat.

27. During the consideration of the item, 10 representatives (Kenya, China, India, the United States, Senegal, Cameroon, the Republic of Korea, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Holy See and ECA) made contributions to the debate.

28. One representative suggested recasting the draft declaration along the lines of the Istanbul Declaration for consideration by the preparatory committee at its second session. He sought clarification on the relationship between that document and the annex to document HS/C/PC.1/4 on the proposed Habitat task manager system, and suggested that the declaration should emanate from the review process and that first priority should be given to implementing the decisions of the revitalization team of Habitat.

29. One representative expressed strong reservations concerning the draft declaration and proposed the deletion of paragraph 1 (e) and paragraph 2.

30. Several representatives sought clarification on the role of the Centre in rural settlements development and in regard to the rural poor, and suggested that its adoption of the term "City agency" conferred priority on cities to the exclusion of rural areas; several representatives supported the retention of the title "Centre for Human Settlements" to maintain a perception of balance in attention to urban and rural areas.

Additional agenda item. Expectations on the outcome, structure and preparatory process of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

31. The Committee considered this additional agenda item which was submitted to it by the Bureau.

32. A representative of the secretariat outlined the proposed expectations on the outcome and structure of the preparatory process as follows:

(a) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

(b) Reconfirmation of the commitments made at Istanbul, which would incorporate:

(i) A declaration on the future role of the United Nations system, particularly the Centre, in the management of urbanization in the new millennium;

(ii) A declaration on good urban governance as a basic condition for sustainable urban development;

(iii) A declaration on secure tenure;

(iv) A decisive impetus to the preparation of a world charter of local self-government.

33. Three representatives (Sweden, Colombia and the United States) took the floor on this agenda item.

34. One representative recalled the earlier statement of the European Union which had addressed several of the issues raised under this agenda item. In line with that statement, he outlined the expected outcome as:

(a) A renewal of commitments;

(b) An appraisal process involving identification of the achievements/progress made, the lessons learned, obstacles and gaps in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

(c) The identification of key challenges and strategies for future action on Habitat Agenda implementation.

35. He further suggested that the structure of the special session be so designed as to assure the full participation of all Habitat partners, especially local authorities, and urged all Governments to make voluntary contributions to support and advance the review and appraisal process.

36. One representative informed the Committee of the holding of a regional meeting to advance the review and appraisal process, to be hosted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

37. One representative noted that the current first session of the preparatory committee was intended to define the review process and not to define proposed outcomes. While appreciating the secretariat's presentation and suggestions, his delegation was not ready to associate itself with any specific proposed outcome.

38. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives stated that, while agreeing in principle with the proposals in the secretariat's oral presentation, they were not in a position to commit their delegations to those proposals before studying the written text, which they requested the secretariat to provide. One representative stated that she was opposed to the proposed world charter on local self-government.

Annex V

Summaries of opening statements

A. Statement by Germán García-Durán (Colombia), Chairman of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

1. In his opening statement to the preparatory committee, the Chairman pointed out that during the century that had just begun, in which cities would be the main engine of economic development, it would be necessary to adopt an integrated approach to land management and to combat poverty.

2. The process of preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda offered an opportunity to examine policies and programmes as well as problems which hindered the sustainable and equitable development of human settlements. For that purpose, the Centre should be a strong and efficient multilateral body with a mandate and a renewed ability to coordinate and support activities at both the national and local levels.

3. The Habitat programme should move forward hand in hand with the decisions of the General Assembly and the new work programme of the Centre, as adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session. The task of the present session was therefore to define consultative and negotiating machinery for monitoring basic issues and to draw up the documents for the second substantive session of the preparatory committee, which was to be held in February 2001.

B. Policy statement by Klaus Töpfer, Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

4. The Acting Executive Director of the Centre delivered a policy statement, recalling that the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of June 1996 had marked a turning point in the international effort to promote socially and environmentally sustainable cities and to concentrate on shelter for all. Five years after that "City Summit", one of the main outcomes of the current first session of the preparatory committee should be a careful review of the two main themes of the Habitat Agenda, namely, shelter and sustainable urban development policies, and the resulting strategic initiatives taken to accelerate their implementation.

5. He believed that there was no need for a new or revised Habitat Agenda, but rather a need to monitor and assess implementation, which would include identifying bottlenecks and developing and deciding on clear, qualitative indicators for monitoring.

6. The Habitat Centre, as the focal point for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, was focusing on its two main themes; to move forward, the Centre had decided to adopt an advocacy approach, by concentrating on two campaigns, one for the granting of secure tenure, as the first housing right, and the other for good urban governance, which was the foundation of sustainable urban development.

7. Local authorities, he said, were crucial partners in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and he looked forward to working with the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, established by the Commission on Human Settlements in 1999, and with the many mayors and presidents of local authorities who had come to the present session of the Preparatory Committee to participate in the deliberations. He also referred to two other entities that were providing vital support — the United Nations Development Group and the World Bank, which jointly with the Centre had launched the Cities Alliance, for slum upgrading and city strategies. He was also pleased that the Economic and Social Council would be dedicating its coordination segment to the Habitat Agenda in its meeting in July 2000.

8. The preparatory committee could count on the secretariat for support in its role of designing a detailed road map leading to the special session of the General Assembly.

Annex VI

Statements made by the representatives of China and the Holy See following the adoption of the resolutions by the Commission acting as the preparatory committee

A. Statement by the representative of China concerning the issue of representation (annex I, resolution 1/3)

1. The Chinese delegation hopes that the issue of the rules relating to the participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the special session can be resolved smoothly. The final decision on this issue has to be made at the General Assembly. The delegation supports the request of the committee that the General Assembly should consider applying the rules of the Habitat II Conference, but it also believes that, as the General Assembly has its own decision-making modalities and criteria, the direct recommendation contained in paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 that the rules of procedure of the Istanbul Conference should apply to the General Assembly sessions is not appropriate. It is even more inappropriate to draft any specific text regarding the issue of accreditation before it is formally considered by the General Assembly. The delegation therefore herewith expresses its reservation on this issue and requests that its position be duly recorded.

B. Statement by the representative of the Holy See

2. The Holy See, in conformity with its nature and particular mission, joins the consensus on the documents of the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and wishes to express the following reservations and statements of interpretation regarding certain concepts used in them:

(a) The Holy See, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stresses that the family is the basic unit of society and is based on marriage as an equal partnership between husband and wife, to which the transmission of the human life is entrusted. It considers references to "various forms of the family" as references to different cultural expressions of the family as described above;

(b) The Holy See understands the use of the term "gender" in these documents in the light of its statement made at the conclusion of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, and included in the report of that Conference;

(c) With regard to all references to international agreements, in particular any existing international agreements mentioned in the documents, the Holy See reserves its position in a manner consistent with its acceptance or non-acceptance of these agreements and any reservations it may have expressed.

3. The Holy See requests that these reservations and statements of interpretation be inserted integrally into the report on the first session of the preparatory committee.